



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUPERVISOR RIDLEY-THOMAS SUPPORTS EXTENSION OF \$20 MILLION ANNUAL DIETARY AND CONCESSION AGREEMENT THAT COULD CREATE NEW JOBS FOR L.A. COUNTY RESIDENTS

LOS ANGELES — Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas today expressed his support for a proposal by the Department of Health Services (DHS) to extend the terms of a dietary and concession agreement with Morrison Health Care, Inc., emphasizing that the plan could create new jobs for Los Angeles County residents.

The Board of Supervisors approved the request by DHS for Morrison Health Care, Inc. to provide the needed services at various County health facilities until the company can complete the County's Request for Proposals (RFP) process.

"Los Angeles County has many neighborhoods with high rates of unemployment and substantial numbers of individuals with barriers to employment. This dietary concession RFP is ultimately worth roughly \$20 million a year and could create new jobs for unemployed Los Angeles County residents," the Supervisor said.

Supervisor Ridley-Thomas urged the Board to instruct the County's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to work with the Interim Director of DHS and County Counsel, to report back in 30 days on the viability of including a local worker hiring requirement as part of the final proposed dietary services contract.

He also instructed the Auditor Controller to review the living wage rate to be paid under the contract to ensure it has been appropriately adjusted to reflect the rising cost of health care benefits, in compliance with the County's living wage ordinance.

The local worker hiring component requires that a significant portion of employees hired under the final contract be Los Angeles County residents, a portion of whom are disadvantaged workers who are either low income, homeless, a custodial single parent, receiving public assistance, lacking a high school diploma, formerly a foster care or probation youth, or subject to chronic unemployment.

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